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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



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For Release: March 19

MUSEUM TO DISPLAY  
FABERGÉ COLLECTION

More than 60 works of art, most of them made in the workshop of Peter Carl Fabergé and bequeathed to The Cleveland Museum of Art by Mrs. India Early Minshall, will be shown in a special display at the Museum for 6 months in Gallery 25 beginning March 15. Mrs. Minshall (who died in December, 1965) began her collection in the 1930's and assembled the objects with scrupulous care. Fabergé, who died in 1920, was court jeweler to Czars Alexander III and Nicholas II of Russia and Mrs. Minshall's collection represents every significant type of object that his workshop produced.

The works shown include Easter eggs, miniature replicas of flowers, animals and furniture, small picture frames, seals, cigarette and match cases, boxes, clocks, a tea service and candelabra. The beauty and charm of these works exists in the expert crafting of hard stone and precious metals with decorations of translucent enamel and jewels.

The core of Mrs. Minshall's collection is a group of Easter eggs. Two are especially important: the opalescent, enameled Red Cross Easter Egg with Resurrection Triptych (3-3/8" h.), presented by Czar Nicholas II to his wife Alexandra Feodorovna in 1915 on the eve of the disintegration of the Russian empire reflects the times to perfection and is perhaps historically one of the most important objects Fabergé ever did; the other egg, 2-5/6" tall, fashioned from lapis lazuli, summarizes with unpretentious handling the best in aesthetic character of Fabergé's work.

Without a doubt Fabergé's particular technical artistry, at its most skillful, has never been surpassed in the West. He maintained unusually high standards in pure design, appropriate material, color relationships and correct scale. Born in St.

Petersburg, he inherited the large and prosperous jewelry firm of his father, abandoned its traditional aims to manufacture articles of fantasy and utility and created a clientele among the Russian and European royalty. Mrs. Minshall was the daughter of Dr. L. M. Early who helped develop the X-ray, and the wife of T. Ellis Minshall, founder of the Pocahontas Oil Company. Her desire to collect was stimulated by a keen interest in Russian imperial history; her efforts culminated in a distinguished collection --- important historically, technically and aesthetically.

An illustrated catalog of the collection will be available.

17. 3/3/67



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